

Bring Your Own Bag Ordinance



Solid Waste Advisory Committee
2018

Becoming A Near Zero Waste Community

Town Council signed a Near Zero Waste Resolution in the spring of 2015

Solid Waste Advisory Committee (SWAC) has looked how we can move toward this

- ▶ SWAC actions to support preventing waste
 - ▶ Pay as you throw trash service
 - ▶ Repair Cafe
 - ▶ Food Too Good To Waste residential challenge
 - ▶ Low waste event guidance
 - ▶ Single-use plastics?

Roadside Litter Pickup on April 7, 2018



The Effect of Single-Use Plastics

- ▶ It is a small slice of the total solid waste stream
- ▶ But with some astounding downstream consequences
- ▶ How can we act on this?

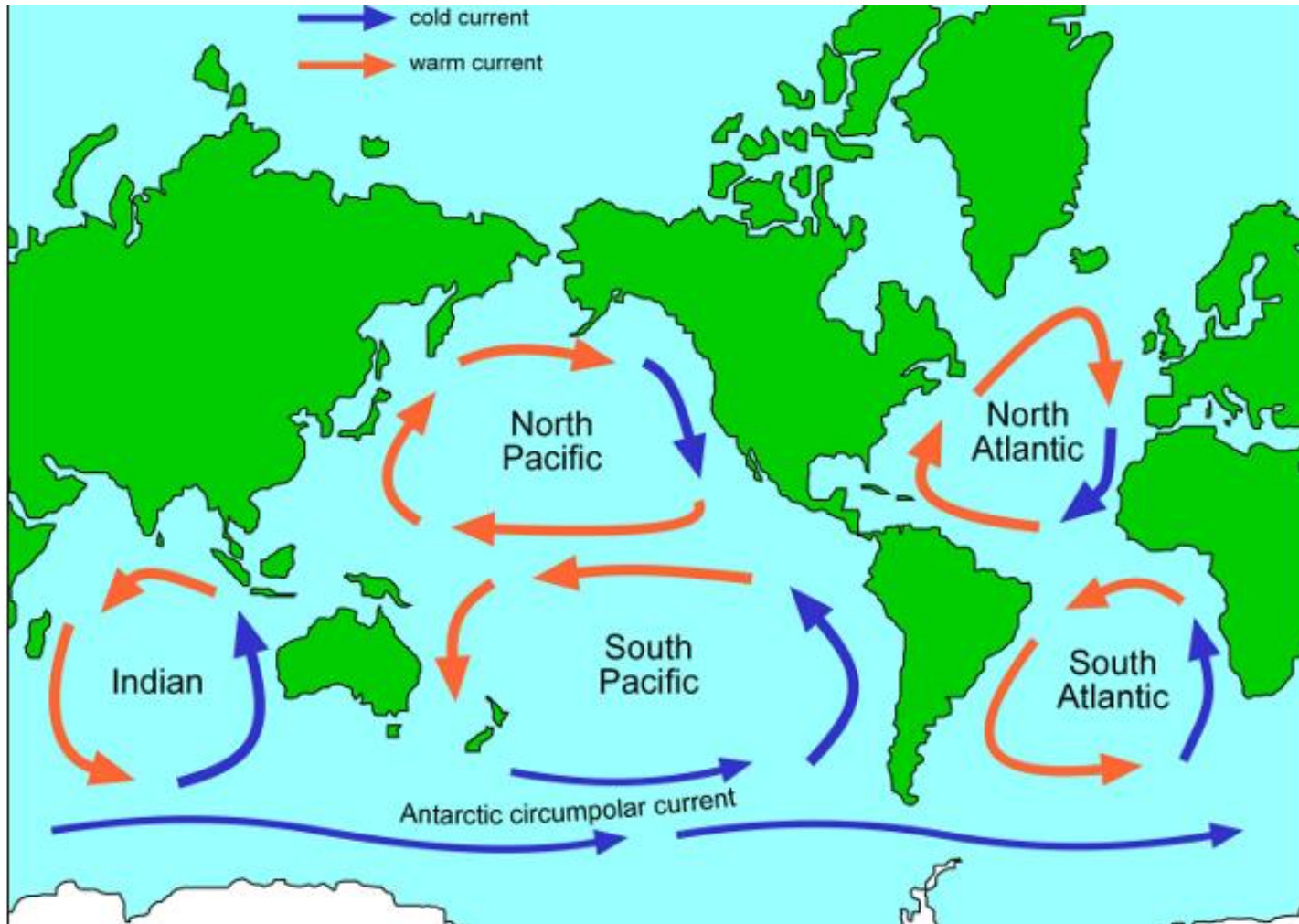
Plastics Are Polluting Our oceans

What Lies Under - Ferdi Rizkiyan



Plastic bags need 500 to 1000 years to break down and they never fully biodegrade

5 Plastic Ocean Gyres



Weak Recycling Markets

- ▶ Recycling markets fluctuate
- ▶ Right now markets have become weak
- ▶ What this means is that the materials collected for recycling need to be cleaner
- ▶ The recycling facility may start charging for plastic bags mixed with recycling



Willimantic Waste Paper shuts down their recycle facility four hours each day to remove entangled plastic bags.

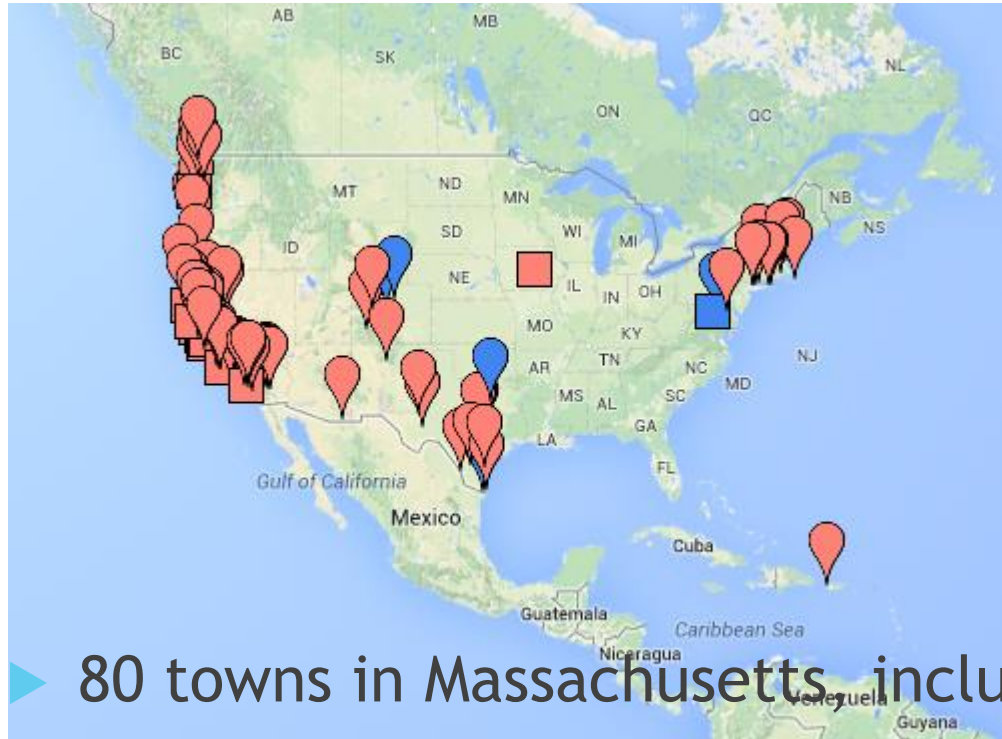


Workers removing plastic bags from recycling machinery.
Photo courtesy of Klicker and Waste Connections

Target Single-Use Checkout Bags

- ▶ Last year SWAC began examining the issues associated with plastic bags again
- ▶ Had looked at this in 2008
- ▶ Timing is right
- ▶ Growing momentum
- ▶ There is an easy solution

Communities with Bag Bans



- ▶ 80 towns in Massachusetts, including Boston
- ▶ State of California
- ▶ 12 in Rhode Island
- ▶ 2 in Connecticut, with Greenwich just recently passing a ban

8.6 Million Plastic Bags per Year in Mansfield

- ▶ 102 billion plastic bags/year in U.S.A.
 - ▶ 315 million residents in United States - 2010 census
 - ▶ Almost 1 bag/person/day
 - ▶ 26,543 population in Mansfield - 2010 census



Bag in brambles - Maple Rd



Bag in tree - Maple Rd



Bag in wetlands - Mansfield Center



South Eagleville Rd

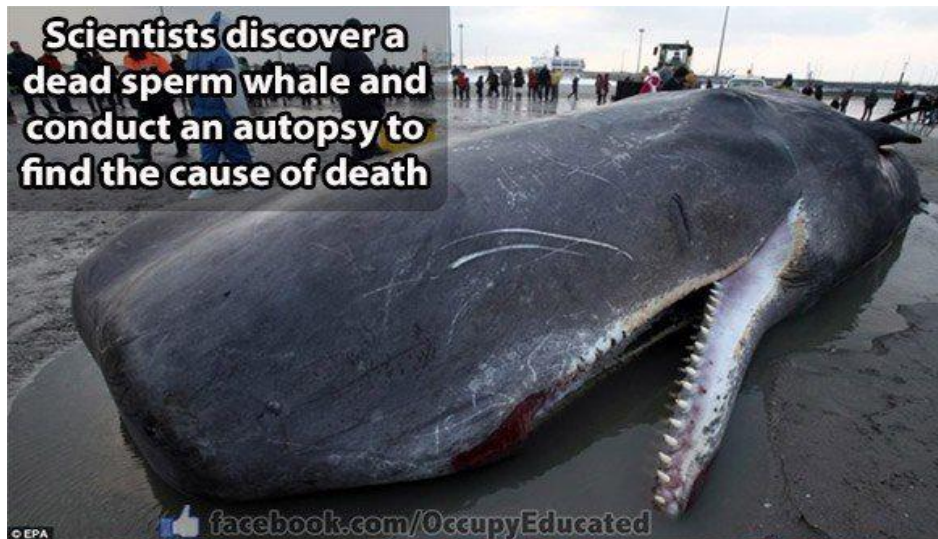


Bag by pond - Maple Rd





**Scientists discover a
dead sperm whale and
conduct an autopsy to
find the cause of death**



facebook.com/OccupyEducated

**Inside the whale's
unusually bloated
stomach, they find
100 plastic bags**



So What Is The Solution?



Proposed Single Use Checkout Bag Ordinance



The Solid Waste Advisory Committee is proposing an ordinance that would prohibit the use of single-use plastic checkout bags. Paper bags would still be allowable.

Bags That Will Still Be Available



Pet Waste Alternatives



Garbage Can Liner Ideas...



Aren't plastic bags FREE?

**Plastic checkout bags cost
between 2 and 5 cents**

**Average Supermarket pays
around \$1000 every week
for plastic bags**



Will this hurt businesses? NO!



- ▶ Buying fewer bags saves businesses money
- ▶ Revenue from reusable bag sales
- ▶ Reusable bags as advertising
- ▶ Many of the small locally owned businesses already use only paper bags
- ▶ 1 paper bag replaces 1.8 plastic bags
- ▶ BJs, Aldi's and Price Rite haven't given plastic bags for years

Tips for easy transition
Store reusable bags in your car
Put them back in car after unloading



Are reusable shopping bags sanitary?

Yes, They Are Safe!

- ▶ Wash your bags
- ▶ Store bags in a dry cool place
- ▶ If fabric bags, throw in the washer and air dry
- ▶ If plastic bags wipe down with hot soapy water
- ▶ Designate one for meats
- ▶ Designate one for produce



Will this be a burden to low income families?

- ▶ Reusable bags are designed to be used 125 times
- ▶ Free bags have been made available at the Library & Community Center and during events
- ▶ Human Services is giving away reusable bags
- ▶ Free bags are available at the Senior Center
- ▶ If an ordinance passes, to help with the transition, some establishments may give them away for free

Outreach

- ▶ **Business visits**

- ▶ 66 Mansfield businesses visited; most have no objection

- ▶ **Presentations**

- ▶ Economic Development Commission
 - ▶ Mansfield Professional Association
 - ▶ Agriculture Committee
 - ▶ Sustainability Committee
 - ▶ Conservation Commission
 - ▶ Two public presentations - Senior Center & Library

Outreach

▶ Events

- ▶ Back to School nights
- ▶ Celebrate Mansfield
- ▶ East Brook Mall
- ▶ Benton Museum
- ▶ Eggstravaganza
- ▶ UConn Spring Fling



Design Your
Own Bag
during
Mansfield
egg hunt
March 31,
2018

Your Thoughts and Comments

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Mansfield trash webpages: www.mansfieldct.gov/trash